Among our most cherished Jewish values is the importance of preserving life and maintaining health. Reducing the risk of vaccine-preventable illnesses from entering any of our programs is the single most effective strategy we can take to protect the health and wellbeing of our community. This goal can only be accomplished through the appropriate vaccination of all those in residence at Ramah Darom. While we respect that individual families may choose to defer vaccinations, we cannot and will not defer the safety of our community as a whole.

**Vaccination Requirements**

We require all children, staff and families planning to attend a program at Ramah Darom adhere to the recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Immunizations Practices (ACIP) and the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) or the Canadian Pediatric Society (CPS) as outlined in 2020 US Centers for Disease Control & Prevention’s (CDC) Recommended Immunization Schedules:

2020 CDC Recommended Immunization Schedule for Age 18 Years and Younger

2020 CDC Recommended Adult Immunization Schedule for Age 19 Years and Older

If you are not sure which vaccines you or your child(ren) have received, please ask your health care provider.

*Note: Not all states have the same requirements, but ALL CDC recommended immunizations are required at Ramah Darom.*

**Vaccination Exceptions**

There are exceptions to the Ramah Darom vaccination policy, but they are extremely rare. We recognize that individuals who have had a documented allergy or severe adverse reaction to a particular vaccine may not be able to complete the immunization schedule outlined by the AAP and the CDC. Additionally, individuals with medical conditions such as congenital immunodeficiency or HIV, cancer and who are receiving chemotherapy, transplant patients, and persons receiving immunosuppressive drugs and chronic steroids also may not be able to receive certain vaccines. In these extremely rare circumstances, current documentation from a Physician (MD or DO), or a Pediatric/Family Practice Advanced Practice Nurse (ARNP or PNP), describing the reason for exemption from immunization must be furnished to Ramah Darom. We are happy to discuss case by case management of these extremely rare circumstances of medical contraindication to partial or complete vaccination.

All requests for exemption will be reviewed by our Medical Chair, in consultation with the National Ramah medical committee.